

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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FM USMISSION USBERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2959

AMEMBASSY BONN

INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN UNN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, PINT, WB, GW, GE, US, UR

SUBJECT: JOINT TRANSIT COMMISSION MEETING

REF: USBERLIN 1703

1. THE JOINT FRG-GDR TRANSIT COMMISSION WILL MEET IN EAST
BERLIN AT 1800 HOURS AUG 18 TO DISCUSS REFUSAL BY GDR
OFFICIALS TO PERMIT TRANSIT TO BERLIN BY SOME NINETEEN
BUSSES AND AUTOMOBILES CARRYING YOUNG CDU SUPPORTERS WISHING
TO PARTICIPATE IN AUG 13 ANTI-WALL DEMONSTRATION (REFTEL.)

2. SENIOR SENAT OFFICIALS BELIEVE
GDR WILL ATTEMPT TO JUSTIFY REFUSAL TO PERMIT TRANIST BY BUSSES ALONG
ONE OF TWO FOLLOWING LINES OF REASONING:(A) THAT THERE
WERE SUFFICIENT GROUNDS TO SUSPECT THAT STERNFAHRT PARTICIPANTS
PLANNED TO DMONSOTRATE AGAINST GDR DURING COURSE OF TRANSIT
TO BERLIN AND THAT MATERIALS FOUND ON BOARD BUSSES AND
STATEMENTS BY PASSENGERS SUPPORTED THIS SUSPICION; OR
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(B) THAT DEMONSTRATORS WERE TURNED BACK

BECAUSE THEY WERE SEEKING TRANSIT GDR TO WEST BERLIN IN ORDER TO PARTICIPATE THERE IN ANTI-GDR DEMONSTRATION, AND SUCH A DEMONSTRATION IS VIOLATION OF QA BECAUSE SUCH A DEMONSTRATION WOULD HEIGHTEN TENSIONS IN BERLIN.

3. SENAT OFFICIALS SAID THEY GENUINELY HOPE GDR WILL ANSWER ALONG LINES OF 2(A) ABOVE BECAUSE THIS WOULD PERMIT CONTAINMENT OF WHOLE INCIDENT WITHIN JURISDICTION OF JOINT TRANSIT COMMISSION WHERE DETAILS OF GDR ALLEGATIONS THAT STERNFAHRT PARTICIPANTS HAD VIOLATE PARAGRAPH 15(B) OF THE TRANSIT AGREEMENT CAN BE HASHED OVER AND EXAMINED IN DRAWN OUT PROCEDURE LASTING SEVERAL WEEKS, CULMINATING ULTIMATELY IN SOME SLIGHTLY BLURRY CONCLUSIONS WHICH WILL RECEIVE LITTLE OR NO PUBLIC NOTICE.

4. SEVERAL OFFICIALS RECOGNIZE, HOWEVER, THAT GDR WILL MORE LIKELY CHOOSE TO JUSTIFY ITS TURNING BACK OF BUSES ALONG LINES SKETCHED OUT IN 2(B) ABOVE. SENAT CHANCELLERY CHIEF HERZ AND SENATOR STOBBE BOTH TOLD MINOFF THAT IN SENAT'S (AND FRG'S) VIEW THIS WOULD ONLY SERVE TO FURTHER ESCALATE IN MOST DANGEROUS AND UNFORTUNATE MANNER DEGREE OF TENSION WHICH HAS BUILT UP OVER PAST WEEKS ALONG FRG-GDR BORDER. FURTHER, WERE GDR TO FOLLOW THIS SORT OF LINE SENAT WOULD EXPECT ALLIES TO MOVE QUICKLY TO PROTEST TO SOVIETS AT AT LEAST AMBASSADORIAL LEVEL IN EITHER MOSCOW OR K IN CAPITALS. A PROTEST AT ANY LOWER LEVEL, IN THE SENAT'S VIEW, WOULD BE MISINTERPRETED BY EAST AS BEING WEAK AND INSIGNIFICANT RESPONSE.

5. COMMENT: MOOD OF SENAT AS TRANSIT MEETING APPROACHES IS CLEARLY ONE OF NERVOUS APPREHENSION. WHILE SENAT CLEARLY HOPES GDR WILL JUSTIFY ITS ACTIONS OF AUG 13 IN "REASONABLE" FASHION, THEY MADE IT ABUNDANTLY CLEAR THAT IF GDR EXPLANATION PROVES POLITICALLY UNACCEPTABLE SENAT EXPECTS ALLIES TO ACT WITH DISPATCH AND WITH DETERMINATION IN RESPONDING TO SOVIETS AT HIGH LEVEL.
GEORGE

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